

SCHOENFELD LAW FIRM



AUTO ACCIDENT GUIDE

WHAT TO DO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT





TABLE OF CONTENTS

What To Do Immediately Following An Accident

1. Gather Evidence at the Accident Scene
2. Call the Police to File an Auto Accident Report
3. Call Your Automobile Insurance Company to File a Claim
4. Seek Proper Medical Care Immediately
5. Schedule Your Auto Repairs
6. Do Not Accept a Quick Settlement
7. Hire an Attorney with Whom You Can Actually Speak

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What Types of Damages Can I Recover?
2. How Long Will My Case Last?
3. How Much Is My Case Worth?
4. How Does My Lawyer Get Paid? Can I Afford a Lawyer?
5. What If There Is Not Enough Insurance or No Insurance on the Vehicle at Fault? What Is UIM/UM Coverage?
6. What Should I Be Doing During My Claim/Case Process?

WHAT TO DO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT

Automobile, 18-wheeler, Company Truck, and Motorcycle accidents are a national epidemic, killing or injuring millions of Americans each year. Auto accidents are very frightening and confusing experiences, and victims injured on Louisiana roadways may be entitled to financial damages.

Follow Schoenfeld Law Firm's step-by-step Auto Accident Guide to put yourself in the BEST position possible to get a fair recovery for your damages. We are a Voice for Victims.



Stephen Schoenfeld

Morlas Schoenfeld

ACADIANA
(337) 394-4071

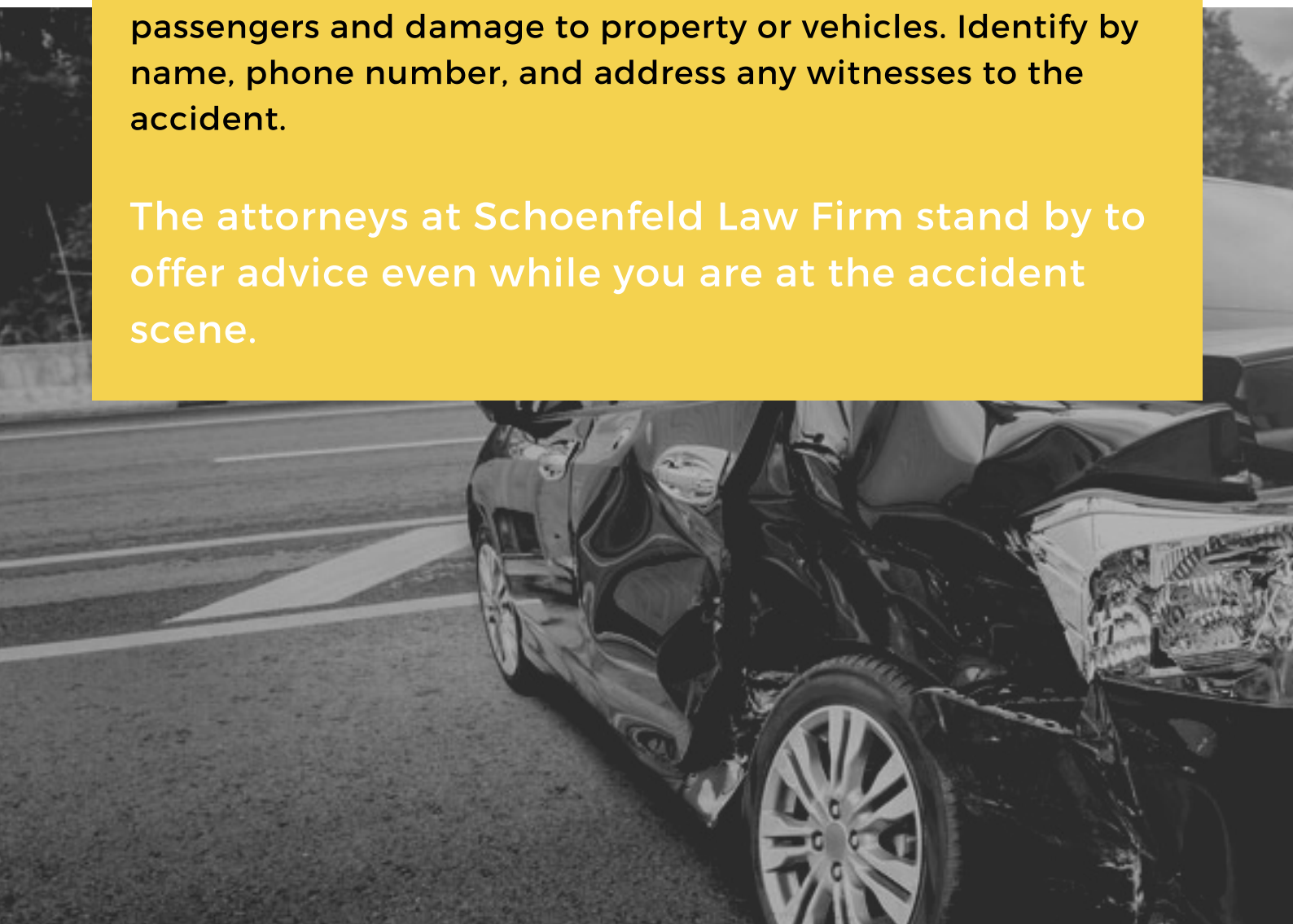
NEW ORLEANS
(504) 586-0025

GATHER EVIDENCE AT THE ACCIDENT SCENE

If your injuries allow, gather the names, addresses, and phone numbers of everyone involved in the accident. Obtain the year, make, model, license plate number, vehicle identification number (VIN), and insurance company information of each vehicle involved in the accident.

Take photos or videos of any injuries to you or other passengers and damage to property or vehicles. Identify by name, phone number, and address any witnesses to the accident.

The attorneys at Schoenfeld Law Firm stand by to offer advice even while you are at the accident scene.



CALL THE POLICE TO FILE AN AUTO ACCIDENT REPORT

Do not leave the scene until you file a police report to document the facts of the accident and help determine who was at fault. Without a report, once you leave the scene, it is your word against any other driver's as to how the accident occurred - even in a minor accident.

It is important to limit your discussion of the accident and not to admit any fault or liability. You should talk about the accident only with the police and your insurance agent. Try to determine whether any drivers receive a citation for any traffic violations.

Share the police accident case number with your attorney at the Schoenfeld Law Firm.

CALL YOUR AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY TO FILE A CLAIM

Call your insurance company immediately from the scene, with the police present if possible, to file the appropriate claim.

If the accident occurs on private property, an accident report may not be provided. In that case, be sure to file a claim with the insurance companies of all vehicles involved at the scene of the accident to minimize any future conflicts about who was at fault.

Hold off on giving any recorded statements until you have received the advice of an attorney at Schoenfeld Law Firm.

SEEK PROPER MEDICAL CARE IMMEDIATELY

If your injuries require immediate care, call an ambulance for transport to a hospital emergency room. If not, visit an ER, urgent care center, or your regular doctor as soon as you leave the accident scene.

Some injuries - often serious ones like whiplash - may not be apparent right away, especially when your body has been traumatized, so be sure you are examined by a medical provider without delay.

If you are unable to find a doctor on your own, Schoenfeld Law Firm can arrange for you to be seen by the specialist of your choice for further medical care.

SCHEDULE YOUR AUTO REPAIRS

The easiest and quickest method to have your car repaired is to have your own insurance company pay for your vehicle damages. However, this is only possible if you have “collision” coverage on your vehicle. Regardless, the insurance company of the vehicle that was at fault is ultimately responsible for paying for the repair of your vehicle damage.

They are also responsible for any car rental you need during the repair process, damage to any contents inside of your vehicle at the time of the accident, and for the loss of use of your vehicle. However, forcing a liable insurance company to pay for all of these damages is often easier said than done.

At Schoenfeld Law Firm, our experienced attorneys can assist with this process.



DO NOT ACCEPT A QUICK SETTLEMENT

NEVER accept a quick settlement from an insurance company, as they are almost never fair. Insurance adjusters are trained to contact you and offer a quick check, hoping to get rid of your claim for far less than it is actually worth.

If the insurance company is successful in quickly settling your claim, they can avoid having to pay a larger sum of money in the future, and you lose your right to pursue a recovery through litigation.

At Schoenfeld Law Firm, we do not rush cases. We handle our cases aggressively, yet with the utmost care, so that our clients can obtain the best results possible.

HIRE AN ATTORNEY WITH WHOM YOU CAN ACTUALLY SPEAK

GET A FREE CONSULTATION With the Lawyers of Schoenfeld Law Firm

At Schoenfeld Law Firm, when you hire us, you get us!

You will be able to speak to Morlas Schoenfeld or Stephen Schoenfeld directly. You will not be forwarded to an answering service or an associate. We will provide you with our personal cell phone numbers, and you can call or text us anytime - after work hours, on weekends, and during holidays.

The lawyers of Schoenfeld Law Firm stand ready to help with your case.



ACADIANA

201 West Berard Street
St. Martinville, LA 70582
(337) 394-4071

NEW ORLEANS

318 Harrison Ave,
2nd Floor
New Orleans, LA 70124
(504) 586-0025

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Types of Damages Can I Recover?

As a result of your accident, the most common monetary damages to which an individual may be entitled are medical bills, lost wages, pain and suffering, mental anguish, scarring and in some cases, punitive damages.

How Long Will My Case Last?

A case typically lasts as long as you need medical care, as directed by your treating physician. In order to obtain a fair settlement or judgment, an insurance company or court will look at your medical records to help determine your damages, including pain, suffering and medical bills.

Without medical records, it is very difficult to prove your damages. Once your medical treatment is complete, Schoenfeld Law Firm can then help you determine the best way to resolve your case.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How Much Is My Case Worth?

The severity of your injury, the length of your medical treatment and even the cost of your medical bills are a few of the many factors that influence the value of an injury claim.

Some attorneys will quote you an attractive, yet inflated, monetary figure to get your business. This only leads to problems like unfulfilled promises and disappointment in the future.

The lawyers at Schoenfeld Law Firm advise their clients about realistic expectations, good or bad. Even if yours is not the perfect case, we will strive to address any issues and obtain the absolute best recovery possible.

Since 1982, the attorneys at Schoenfeld Law Firm have been handling injury cases, and we have a great understanding of how to evaluate your claim. Every case is different. Do not make the mistake of comparing your accident or injury to someone else's. We give each individual case the personal attention it deserves.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How Does My Lawyer Get Paid? Can I Afford a Lawyer?

Yes, you can afford an attorney. The lawyers at Schoenfeld Law Firm work on a contingency fee basis. This means that if we are not successful in getting you a recovery in your case, you owe us NOTHING - no strings attached. We only get paid if you get paid.

What If There Is Not Enough Insurance or No Insurance on the Vehicle at Fault? What Is UIM/UM Coverage?

Oftentimes in Louisiana auto accidents, the liable party lacks enough insurance (or worse, has no insurance at all) to pay for damages owed to you. In that case, it is always beneficial for our clients to have in place under-insured motorist (UIM) and uninsured motorist (UM) coverage.

This coverage will allow a faultless injured driver to pursue their own insurance to pay for damages caused by underinsured (or uninsured) drivers. We encourage our clients to secure the maximum amount of UIM/UM coverage that they can afford.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Should I Be Doing During My Claim/Case Process?

All you have to do is attend your medical appointments with your doctor, and focus on a speedy recovery. We will take care of the rest.

We will handle the insurance companies and any negligent parties involved in your accident. We will monitor your care, provide you with realistic expectations, keep you updated on the progress of your case in real time, and prepare your case for resolution.

Let us do the worrying for you.
Call us, **FREE OF CHARGE**,
to discuss all of your legal rights.

We treat our clients like real people.
We hear you; let us be your voice.

ACADIANA
(337) 394-4071

NEW ORLEANS
(504) 586-0025



SCHOENFELD LAW FIRM



TWO BROTHERS | ONE LAW FIRM

ACADIANA

201 West Berard Street
St. Martinville, LA 70582
(337) 394-4071

NEW ORLEANS

318 Harrison Ave, 2nd Floor
New Orleans, LA 70124
(504) 586-0025

